

**NIAGARA COUNTY
LEGISLATURE**

NIAGARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094-2740
• (716) 439-7000 • Fax: (716) 439-7124

**WM. KEITH MCNALL
CHAIRMAN**

**MARY JO TAMBURLIN
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE**

December 19, 2016

Lya Theodoratos
Brownfields Project Officer
USEPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: Brownfields Petroleum Assessment Grant Application for Niagara County, NY

Dear Ms. Theodoratos:

Please find enclosed Niagara County, New York's application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for a \$100,000 community-wide brownfields petroleum assessment grant. Niagara County is located in the extreme northwest corner of New York State with borders along Canada, the Niagara River, and Lake Ontario. The County is 523 square miles incorporated into twenty municipalities that range from three declining industrial cities, five villages, and twelve rural and suburban townships. Niagara County is home to one of the most remarkable natural wonders of the world – Niagara Falls.

The departure of heavy manufacturing industries left a legacy of toxic contamination that has significantly challenged Niagara County's environmental quality. As home to *Love Canal*, the birthplace of the federal Superfund Program, Niagara County has well-documented evidence of the impact of brownfield contamination on health, welfare, quality of life, and the environment. Niagara County's petroleum inventory includes 85 petroleum sites consisting of automotive repair facilities and gasoline stations ranging in size from 0.1 acre to 17 acres. Past assessment work has revealed petroleum contaminated soil and groundwater. Many of the sites are abandoned, remain unsuitable for redevelopment, are community eyesores, and drain the economic vitality of the area. The community-driven assessment of these sites, and their eventual cleanup, will provide substantial economic opportunity, improved quality of life, and a methodology for reversing the out-migration of people, jobs and capital from the county.

The following information is provided as requested.

a. Applicant Identification:

Niagara County, New York
Department of Economic Development
Vantage Center - Suite One
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, NY 14132

b. Funding Requested:

- i) Grant Type: Assessment
- ii) Grant Type: Community-wide
- iii) Federal Funds Requested: \$100,000
- iv) Contamination: Petroleum

c. Location: The grant will serve Niagara County, New York

d. Site Specific: N/A

e. Contacts

i) Project Director: Amy E. Fisk, AICP, Senior Planner
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
Vantage Center – Suite One
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, NY 14132
Phone: (716) 278-8750; Fax: (716) 278-8757
E-mail: amy.fisk@niagaracounty.com

ii) Highest Ranking Elected Official: Wm. Keith McNall, Chairman
Niagara County Legislature
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 439-7177; Fax: (716) 439-7124
E-mail: keith.mcnall@niagaracounty.com

f. Population

- i) General Population: 212,652
- ii) Tribe Applicant: N/A
- iii) Persistent Poverty: No

g. Other Factors Checklist: See attached

h. Letter from New York State: See attached

The requested grant funds will build on Niagara County's brownfield inventory, assessment, and remediation efforts over the past sixteen years and allow Niagara County to build on the community support and momentum created thus far.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Ms. Amy Fisk, AICP, Senior Planner at (716) 278-8750.

Sincerely,



Wm. Keith McNall, Chairman
Niagara County Legislature

Ranking Criteria for Assessment Grants

IV.C.3.1 Community Need

IV.C.3.1.a Targeted Area and Brownfields

i. Community and Target Area Descriptions - Niagara County is located in the northwestern corner of New York State (NYS) with borders along Lake Ontario, Niagara River and Ontario, Canada. The County encompasses 527 square miles incorporated into three cities, twelve towns, five villages, and two Native American nations. Niagara County's assessment grant will target areas within the three cities.

As a result of cheap hydropower electricity, chemical manufacturing companies located along the City of Niagara Falls' waterfront produced phosphorus, chlorine bleach, abrasives, ammonia, and hydrochloric acid. When the hydropower plant was destroyed in 1956, local factories were forced to relocate resulting in a loss of over 10,000 manufacturing jobs from 1958 - 1963. Closed factories resulted in over 1,500 acres of brownfields that remain today.

The City of Lockport's location along the Erie Canal and Eighteenmile Creek was attractive for cotton, paper, steel, and saw mills, many of which have shut down leaving behind over 111 acres of brownfields. As a result of disruptions in the automotive industry, a significant number of jobs were lost at the General Motors Delphi Harrison facility.

In the City of North Tonawanda, the Erie Canal and Niagara River provided the water necessary for power and cargo shipping to support steel and iron manufacturers, chemical companies, and the lumber industry. With changes in the manufacturing process and greater access to truck routes, many of these companies closed, leaving behind over 152 acres of brownfields.

The departure of heavy manufacturing industries in the three cities left a legacy of toxic contamination that has significantly challenged Niagara County's environmental quality. In 1978, Niagara Falls gained national notoriety when contamination at Love Canal caused the evacuation of hundreds of residents and sparked the creation of the Federal Superfund Program.

ii. Demographic Information and Indicators of Need - The population of Niagara County has continued to shrink with a peak population in 1960 of 242,269 people to 214,150 in 2015. The most drastic decline is in the City of Niagara Falls with a 1960 population of 102,394 down to 49,435 in 2015 (U.S. Census). The assessment grant will focus on the census tracts (CTs) in the three cities with a high number of brownfields, abandoned buildings, and sensitive populations. Table 1 provides demographic information for the targeted areas.

Table 1. Demographic Information

Statistic	CT 202 (NF)	CT 229.01 (NT)	CT 237 (Lkpt)	Niagara County	New York State	National
Population	2,488	2,179	1,733	214,150	19,673,174	316,515,021
Percent Minority	89.2%	0.8%	26.6%	12.1%	35.5%	26.5%
Under 19	44.5%	16.5%	20.2%	23.2%	24.4%	26.0%
Females age 15-44	42.8%	22.2%	43.7%	35.3%	40.0%	39.3%
Median Age	24.8	49.1	40.1	42.6	38.1	37.6
Unemployment	21.9%	6.2%	19.7%	7.0%	8.2%	8.3%

Statistic	CT 202 (NF)	CT 229.01 (NT)	CT 237 (Lkpt)	Niagara County	New York State	National
Poverty Rate	64.8%	4.5%	31.3%	13.7%	15.7%	15.5%
Median Household Income	\$12,446	\$39,167	\$21,750	\$49,449	\$59,269	\$53,889
Median House Value	\$ 48,600	\$81,500	\$54,500	\$108,000	\$283,400	\$178,600
Homes Built < 1980	73.6%	86.1%	94.5%	79.5%	78.5%	54.6%
Source: 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 2011-2015 5-Yr. Estimate						

iii. Brownfields and Their Impacts - Niagara County Department of Economic Development (NCDED) maintains a county-wide inventory of brownfields that includes 338 sites, many of which are abandoned. The 97 petroleum sites include automotive repair facilities, gasoline stations, manufacturing gas plants (MGP), petroleum storage areas, and salvage yards ranging in size from 0.1 acre to 26 acres. Past assessment work revealed chlorinated solvents, petroleum products, and lead. A majority of the sites are located immediately adjacent to residential neighborhoods since gas stations and automotive repair facilities were considered neighborhood conveniences. The close proximity of brownfields to residential neighborhoods creates a concern for unknown risk to residents and their children. The waterfront in the targeted areas has been negatively impacted because petroleum storage areas and MGPs were developed along surface water bodies. MGPs produced coal tar wastes that were often discharged to a nearby surface water body. Over the decades during which the MGPs operated, substantial amounts of tar also leaked from storage and processing facilities and contaminated surface soils, subsurface soils, and groundwater. The presence of contamination presents a challenge for both redevelopment of brownfield sites and rejuvenation of surrounding neighborhoods. Niagara County has an established process for prioritizing sites as described in *Section IV.C.3.2.a.ii.*

IV.C.3.1.b Welfare, Environmental, and Public Health Impacts

i. Welfare Impacts - After the County's population peaked, industrial disinvestment created declining employment, decreasing population, poverty, abandoned factories and blight. The lack of employment opportunities forced remaining residents to take lower wage jobs and with less money to spend, neighborhoods declined and houses fell into disrepair. The targeted area in Niagara Falls contains almost all low income renter occupied housing with a current vacancy rate of 25.8% according to neighborhoodscout.com. With 81.5% of the children below the federal poverty level, this neighborhood has a higher rate of childhood poverty than 99.4% of U.S. neighborhoods. The area has more single mother households than 99.5% of the neighborhoods in the U.S. This is often a strong indicator of family and social issues like poverty, high school dropouts, crime, and other societal problems. According to local school district data, the 2015 high school graduation rate in Niagara Falls was 72.2% and 69.1% in Lockport.

Studies have indicated that a correlation exists between the number of abandoned properties and crime rates. The City of Niagara Falls suffers from the highest crime rates in New York State per capita. According to neighborhoodscout.com, the 2014 violent crime rate in Niagara Falls was 11.95 per 1,000 residents compared to 3.82 per 1,000 residents in NYS. The property crime rate was 55.04 per 1,000 residents compared to 3.82 per 1,000 residents in NYS and the crimes per square mile were 233 compared to 43 in NYS. The proximity of industrial uses to residential uses without a buffer zone further detracts from the quality of the neighborhood.

ii. Cumulative Environmental Issues - During the County's heavy industrial history, most manufacturers disposed of hazardous wastes on-site in landfills or into local waterways. Liquid and sludge-like chemical wastes were dumped in open pits on the outskirts of Niagara Falls and residential neighborhoods were built over and around these pits; the most infamous neighborhood being Love Canal. According to EPA's EJ Screen website, the target area in Niagara Falls is in close proximity to Superfund and hazardous waste sites, a majority of the homes likely have lead paint, and the lifetime cancer risk from inhalation of air toxics is 80-90%. The target area in Lockport is in close proximity to Superfund sites, 95% of the homes likely have lead paint, and 90-95% of the area is considered low income.

According to Envirofacts, Niagara County has 32 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites, including 3 active National Priority List (NPL) sites and 5 delisted NPL sites. There are 970 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites and 11 Toxic Substances Control Act registered facilities. Per the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) there are 142 State Superfund hazardous waste sites and 31 voluntary cleanup sites in Niagara County. In 2015, NYSDEC documented 75 petroleum spills in the targeted areas.

Niagara County has the only hazardous waste landfill in NYS and adjacent to the landfill is 7,500 acres of land that was used by the federal government to manufacture TNT. The property currently stores waste from nuclear weapons developed as part of the Manhattan project. Radioactive slag, a by-product of phosphorus manufacturing in Niagara Falls, was used as fill materials for road construction and development projects throughout Niagara County causing widespread radiological issues. Chemical contamination leaching into local waterways has resulted in the International Joint Commission listing the Niagara River and Eighteenmile Creek as Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes Basin. Both waterways have restrictions on fish consumption, reduced public bathing and recreation, and habitat destruction. Despite these impairments, all of the drinking water in the region is sourced from the Niagara River.

iii. Cumulative Public Health Impacts - A majority of brownfield sites in Niagara County are concentrated in a few census tracts in the three cities, which have low median incomes, the highest levels of poverty in the County, and a high proportion of sensitive populations. Within Census Tract 202, 89.4% of the population is a minority and 60.4% of the residents are below the poverty level. Women of child bearing age and children constitute 87% of the community's population and are more susceptible to the contaminants found at brownfield sites surrounding their homes. Petroleum brownfields are located along main streets and corner lots in neighborhoods in the targeted areas. Petroleum contamination results primarily from spills or leaks, often from underground storage tanks. Petroleum hydrocarbons enter the air, the soil, and groundwater, and can remain for years. People are exposed to these harmful contaminants via ingestion, inhalation, and/or dermal contact. Children are commonly exposed to petroleum hydrocarbons by playing in contaminated soil.

Benzene and butadiene, petroleum by-products, are common contaminants found at petroleum sites in the County. Studies have shown these contaminants can cause or aggravate a wide range of serious health problems including cancer, birth defects, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Exposure to environmental carcinogens may be

contributing to the higher incidence of cancer in the County. Table 2 provides cancer rates from the National Cancer Institute. Data was not available at the municipal or CT levels.

Table 2. Incidence of Cancer (per 100,000) from 2009-2013

Type of cancer	Niagara County	NYS	National
Overall Occurrence	513.1	482.5	448.4
Bladder	33.2	23.5	20.7
Lung and Bronchus	80.1	61.8	62.4
Oral Cavity and Pharynx	14.2	10.5	11.3

High levels of lead have been found and exposure can damage the brain and kidneys. In pregnant women, high levels of exposure may cause miscarriage. According to NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH), children are more sensitive to the health effects of lead than adults and a blood lead level of 10 mcg/dL in children is a concern. From 2012 - 2014, 15.6 children per 1,000 in the County tested as having a blood lead level over 10 mcg/dL; the rate in NYS was 4.9 children per 1,000. Data was not available at the municipal level. As shown in Table 1, a majority of the housing stock within the targeted areas was built before 1980 indicating lead paint is likely present. The lower income people occupying these homes do not have the resources for rehabilitation. It is likely that some homes have soil vapor intrusion issues that are compromising the quality of indoor air. When petroleum hydrocarbons enter a building there is inhalation exposure that can result in chronic health effects such as COPD and asthma. According to the Niagara County Health Department (NCHD), the adult rate for asthma in Niagara County in 2014 was 15.3% compared to 10.7% in NYS and 7.7% nationally (Center for Disease Control and Prevention).

IV.C.3.1.c. Financial Need

i. Economic Conditions - From 1970 to 1990, total employment in the region's manufacturing sector fell from 170,000 to 90,000, a decline of 53%. Most of the manufacturing facilities were concentrated in the cities and target areas. The manufacturing sector continues to decline according to the US Census Bureau County Business Patterns information shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Niagara County's Manufacturing Sector 1998-2014

	1998	2014	Number Changes	Percent Change
All Employment Sectors Jobs	67,088	59,594	-7,494	-11.2%
Manufacturing Sector Jobs	18,388	8,280	-10,108	-55.0%
Number of Manufacturing Firms	308	269	-39	-12.7%

With the loss of employment opportunities, skilled workers left the County. The lost manufacturing jobs have been replaced with lower paying jobs in the retail and service sectors. The County and cities have been deeply impacted by cuts in state and federal aid. The 2016 cost for Medicaid and state mandates was 101% of the County's tax levy. As seen in Table 4, the number of people receiving public assistance is putting a strain on local budgets.

Table 4. Individuals Receiving Public Assistance

	Niagara Falls	North Tonawanda	Lockport
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	13,374	3,567	5,896
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	2,543	288	587
Source: Niagara County Department of Social Services, December 2016			

Each of the three cities is experiencing financial strain and is struggling to provide basic community services. According to a 2014 NYS Comptroller report, "Niagara Falls has nearly exhausted its resources to avoid a fiscal crisis. The city's budget challenges stem from a number of socio-economic factors including population loss and a high unemployment rate." According to the report, the city's general fund incurred average annual deficits of \$12.4 million from 2009 - 2013. The City of Lockport has a NYS control board overseeing the city's finances as part of a 10-year bailout plan that the city received during its 2013-14 fiscal crisis.

With shrinking population, lower income workers, and loss of industrial taxpayers, existing tax dollars are stretched to provide basic community services such as fire and police protection. The County and cities do not have the financial resources to fund brownfields assessment. The County is acting on behalf of the three cities to effectively manage a brownfields program consistent with EPA Regional Priority #1.

ii. Economic Effects of Brownfields - The high concentration of brownfields in the three cities has resulted in blight, property vacancy, depressed property values, high levels of poverty, and high crime rates. Our targeted communities have depressed property values, an older housing stock, and low median household incomes (Table 1). Residents living in the targeted areas are trapped and are often left with no mechanisms for improving their quality of life. According to Niagara County's Real Property Tax Department, there are 500 tax delinquent properties of which 115 are brownfields; back taxes owed on brownfields total \$6.46 million. Niagara County hasn't completed foreclosure on these sites because of liability concerns.

Changes in the automotive industry forced Delphi Harrison Thermal Systems to declare bankruptcy in 2005 resulting in a loss of 6,890 jobs at the Lockport plant. Remaining workers took drastic pay cuts from \$27/hr to \$14/hr. Properties along Eighteenmile Creek in Lockport were recently added to the NPL due to high levels of PCBs, lead and chromium. Several homeowners were relocated due to contamination around and under their homes. Over 10,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in Niagara Falls from 1958 - 1963. During the last decade, Niagara Falls lost 866 more manufacturing jobs as remaining companies downsized or relocated. Many of these manufacturing facilities are sitting vacant because of contamination. From 1972-1996, many of North Tonawanda's primary employers, shut down or relocated resulting in the loss of 3,200 manufacturing jobs at companies such as Tonawanda Ironworks, International Paper, Roblin Steel, and Occidental Chemical Corporation's Durez Facility. The result is vacant facilities along the Niagara River waterfront and declining urban neighborhoods.

The negative impact of brownfields is not confined to individual properties, but impact the health and vitality of adjacent sites and neighborhoods. Furthermore, these sites are contributing to negative neighborhood perceptions and blight and are serving as a roadblock to investment and redevelopment.

IV.C.3.2. Project Description and Feasibility of Success

IV.C.3.2.a. Project Description, Timing and Implementation

i. Project Description and Alignment with Revitalization Plans

Niagara County will use grant funds to conduct Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs), Phase II ESAs, and Site Investigations (SIs) at strategic sites in each of the targeted areas. Each of the three cities has a Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Plan focusing on the specific

targeted areas of this grant. BOA is a NYS program through which communities complete area-wide revitalization strategies for neighborhoods impacted by the presence of brownfields. BOA grants support a variety of revitalization activities including: community visioning and public participation; existing conditions analysis; strategic site identification; economic/market studies; redevelopment feasibility assessments and site plan alternatives for specific strategic sites; infrastructure studies; marketing; local law changes; development standards and design guidelines; and other actions to spur investment in, clean-up of and redevelopment of brownfields. To oversee the BOA projects, each City has a BOA Steering Committee (BOA Committee) which includes representation from the public, private, and non-profit sectors as well as local residents. In addition to the BOA Committee, the plans were developed with robust public involvement which is further described in *Section IV.C.3.3.a*.

Site reuse plans in Niagara Falls include developing new light industrial space, advanced manufacturing, a technology and business park, and green industries. The added employment opportunities will help with high unemployment and poverty in the targeted area. In Lockport, site reuses include new businesses, housing, and tourism development. In North Tonawanda, site reuses include new housing, a hotel, mixed use developments, and tourism related activities.

The one resource lacking in the BOA program is funding to conduct environmental assessment and investigations. Only a small number of sites within the targeted areas have a fully understood environmental history. For most of the sites, site characterization has not been completed. A priority task identified in all of the BOA plans is to conduct ESAs at strategic sites to ensure that the proposed conceptual redevelopment and infrastructure reuse is appropriate based on the nature and extent of site contamination. Funding from this grant will fill the data gap and help advance sites in accordance with the community's established vision.

Niagara County is a partner of a regional consortium that in 2011 was awarded a HUD grant through the HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC). The consortium issued a plan in December 2014 entitled "One Region Forward" allowing stakeholders in Erie and Niagara Counties to chart a path for a more sustainable future and solve problems collectively. The plan is divided into five ideas: 1) Create great places and a thriving economy through efficient land use; 2) Connect our places by expanding and diversifying our transportation options; 3) Provide housing choices in neighborhoods that are great places to live; 4) Strengthen our food systems for a healthier population and economy; and 5) Conserve energy, promote renewable energy, and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Niagara County's assessment grant leverages PSC's investment by implementing recommendations in the plan.

ii. Timing and Implementation - As evidenced by the successful implementation of existing EPA brownfield grants, NCDED has the capacity and experience to ensure completion of the grant within the three year project period. The County has a Brownfield Working Team (BWT) that meets quarterly to discuss brownfield projects. The BWT includes a representative from each of the three BOAs and NCDED's Brownfields Project Manager.

(a) Contractor Procurement - Niagara County follows specific purchasing procedures and guidelines in accordance with NYS General Municipal Law, Section 104-b. NCDED in conjunction with the Niagara County Purchasing Department (NCPD) competitively procures qualified environmental professionals (QEPs) to perform assessment and investigation work

through a sealed bid process. After EPA approval, a Request for Proposals is issued and publicly advertised for at least 30 days. Sealed bids are received by the NCPD on a designated day and time and proposals are publicly opened. Members of the BWT review and rank the proposals based on overall specialized capabilities, municipal brownfields experience, past performance on municipal contracts, reasonableness of labor and expense rates, qualifications of key personnel, location of contractor, and MBE/WBE participation. Up to four QEPs will be selected to perform grant funded work. The RFP process will take place from 10/1/17 - 1/30/18.

(b) Site Identification, Prioritization, and Selection Process - Niagara County maintains a petroleum brownfield inventory that 97 sites. As part of the BOA process, specific catalytic sites and community priority sites were identified. Potential assessment sites include gasoline stations, automotive repair facilities, MGPs, petroleum storage areas, and salvage yards. The BWT will utilize an established site evaluation worksheet to prioritize sites for assessment. The interactive Excel worksheet takes into consideration factors such as environmental justice, community priority, location/size of site, redevelopment potential, impact on surrounding area, access to various types of infrastructure, site environmental issues, and health impacts of the site. Each attribute is given a value and a multiplier is used to derive a score for each criterion. The scores for each criterion are totaled to provide an overall site score. The highest scored sites will be discussed with our community partners to ensure the most strategic sites are being pursued.

(c) Site Access - Through previous Niagara County assessment grants, the Niagara County Attorney's Office developed a Property Access Consent Form which requires property owner to provide written permission allowing free and clear site access. The consent form is used for both privately and publicly owned sites and allows the County assurances that site access will be granted when fieldwork is conducted. At tax delinquent sites, Niagara County issues a legal injunction allowing for site access to conduct the necessary investigation.

IV.C.3.2.b. Task Descriptions and Budget Table

i. Task Description

Task 1: Cooperative Agreement Oversight

NCDED will coordinate all aspects of the grant including hiring and supervising QEPs who are conducting ESAs and SIs; leading the BWT; coordinating public outreach with the BOA Committee and Community Partners; and attending required brownfield trainings and meetings. The NCDED will be responsible for submitting required quarterly progress reports, financial forms, and other required reports within 30 days of the end of the federal reporting period.

- Personnel - in-kind: NCDED staff will oversee Task 1 activities as an in-kind service utilizing funding from the County's general budget. Meeting supply costs and community outreach activities will be provided as an in-kind service.
- Travel - grant funds: Attendance at one national EPA Brownfield Conference at \$2,500 and attendance at one regional brownfields conference at \$500 each. Requested funds cover registration, transportation, lodging, and per diem for the NCDED Project Manager.

Task 2: Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs)

The BWT will use the existing site evaluation worksheet to rank the priority sites. The highest scored sites will be reviewed with the BOA Committee and Community Partners to ensure the most strategic sites are being selected for assessment. Prior to pursuing the assessments, Property Access Consent Forms will be executed. NCDED will submit a Property Approval

Form to EPA for the six (6) highest priority sites. QEPs will be selected for the work and Phase I ESAs will be conducted in accordance with ASTM Standard 1527-13 and all appropriate inquiry requirements. Copies of the draft Phase I ESA reports will be sent to EPA for review and approval.

- Contractual - grant funds: Based on Phase I ESA's conducted under past EPA assessment grants, Phase I ESAs vary between \$1,800 and \$2,200 depending on site specifics. Therefore, an average cost of \$2,000/site is estimated for a total of \$12,000.

Task 3: Phase II ESAs

Sites with Phase I ESA RECs will be considered for Phase II ESAs. The Phase I ESA reports will be reviewed by the BWT, BOA Committees, and Community Partners to determine which sites will have the biggest community impact. Two (2) sites will be chosen and EPA approval requested. QEPs will be selected for the work and will conduct the Phase II ESA in accordance with ASTM Standards and EPA requirements. A draft Site Specific Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be sent to EPA for review and approval prior to conducting fieldwork. Copies of the draft Phase II ESA reports will be sent to EPA for review and approval.

- Contractual - grant funds: Based on Phase II ESAs under past EPA grants, costs are highly dependent on site conditions and fieldwork complexities. Past costs varied from \$20,000 to \$30,000; therefore, an average of \$25,000/site is estimated totaling \$50,000.

Task 4: Site Investigation (SI)

Often a Phase II ESA identifies the need for further study to delineate the vertical and horizontal extent of contamination and associated risks. One (1) site for a SI will be selected by the BTW and reviewed by the BOA Committees and Community Partners. Once approved by EPA, a QEP will be selected for the work. A draft (QAPP) will be sent to EPA for review and approval prior to conducting fieldwork. A copy of the draft SI report will be sent to EPA for review and approval.

- Contractual - grant funds: Based on SIs under past EPA grants, costs are highly dependent on site conditions and fieldwork complexities. Past costs varied from \$30,000 to \$40,000; therefore, an average cost of \$35,000 is estimated.

ii. Budget Table

Table 5. Proposed Grant Budget

Categories	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Total
Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Fringe Benefits	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Travel	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Supplies	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Contractual	\$ 0	\$ 12,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 97,000
Other	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total	\$ 3,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 100,000

IV.C.3.2.c. Ability to Leverage

Niagara County is proposing to use in-kind staff time to coordinate and manage the proposed project. It is anticipated that one staff person from Niagara County will spend 10 hours/week over the three year grant period working on grant activities resulting in an in-kind contribution of over \$50,000.

As discussed in *Section IV.C.3.2.a.i*, all of the targeted areas are within an existing BOA study area. NYS grant amounts already secured through the BOA include the following: \$375,000 for Highland Avenue (CT 202); \$598,450 for North Tonawanda (CT 229.01); and \$437,000 for Lockport (CT 237). The \$1.4 million secured is being used to develop comprehensive reuse plans for catalytic sites in the targeted areas. This solid foundation will ensure the successful revitalization of brownfield sites assessed through this grant. NYS also has a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program that provides funding for implementation projects located within designated waterfront areas. This funding can be used to advance waterfront brownfield sites.

In the past Niagara County has successfully received \$325,000 in grant funds from a private utility company for assessment and remediation of three brownfield sites. Depending upon the results of the assessments, funding from the utility company may be available. Private investors have utilized Niagara County's site assessment data to enroll in the NYS Brownfields Cleanup Program (BCP) for site remediation. The sites are remediated with private funds and in return receive tax credits from NYS. Some of the sites assessed with EPA funding may also qualify for either a subgrant or loan through the EPA funded Niagara County Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) program.

Additional federal resources may be sought for some sites. Niagara County is a partner in a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant which gives Niagara County a priority status for federal funding. Potential federal sources for brownfield remediation include EPA cleanup grants, U.S. Economic Development Administration programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Programs, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

IV.C.3.3. Community Engagement and Partnerships

IV.C.3.3.a. Engaging the Community

i. Community Involvement Plan - As part of the BOA plans in the targeted areas, community involvement plans were created outlining a comprehensive community outreach strategy. The objectives of the plans are: share information with the public; offer opportunities for the public to voice issues and concerns; and provide opportunities for public input in the planning process and proposed revitalization. The plans outline strategies for incorporating local community members, project partners, and stakeholders into the planning process to ensure that citizens have the opportunity to shape the future of their community and provide input on redevelopment of brownfield sites. The BOA Committees were established to guide the overall vision of the plan and its recommendations and to discuss comments received on project related documents. The BOA Committee meets quarterly and members include local, county, and state representatives, community activists, business leaders, and interested citizens. The BOA Committee helps guide the sites selected for assessment and investigation.

The BWT will oversee community involvement activities for the ESAs and SIs as an in-kind service. The consultant team paid through BOA funds manages overall public outreach and community involvement. Results of EPA grant funded work will be incorporated into public outreach efforts to provide the public with a complete understanding of issues within their neighborhood. Public meetings are held regularly and correspond with project kickoff and planning, discussion of draft site results, and reuse planning.

A section of NCDED's website is dedicated to brownfields and extensive information on the assessment program is provided. NCDED hosts a monthly local cable access television show. Early in the grant process, a show will be produced on brownfields explaining how the public can be involved with grant activities. The show will air multiple times over a 30 day period.

ii. Communicating Progress - As discussed in **Section IV.C.3.3.a.i**, a robust community involvement plan is in place for the targeted areas. Regular public meetings are held within the community and informational booths are held at local festivals and community events. Public involvement opportunities are advertised through project websites, newspapers, community centers, libraries, churches, local businesses, and door-to-door flyers. BOA specific websites were established and project documents are available at local libraries and City Halls. The professional consultant teams managing the BOAs have conducted hundreds of stakeholder meetings and interviews and coordinated more than 30 public meetings, workshops, open houses, and visioning sessions. In North Tonawanda and Lockport bike/walking tours were held in the targeted areas with citizens and public officials to gain a better understanding of brownfield sites. A developer's forum and brownfields bus tour was held in the City of Niagara Falls to encourage private investment in brownfield sites. A six-week brownfields course for Niagara Falls residents was held at a neighborhood community center. The 38 residents who took the course are now advocates for addressing brownfields in their neighborhood.

Meetings are held in the evening at ADA compliant facilities in the targeted areas. Holding the meetings in the targeted areas allows residents without transportation to attend. English is the primary language so no language barriers are expected. However, if the need for translation arises, Niagara County will provide necessary translation. Those with hearing or reading impairment will also be accommodated if the need arises.

IV.C.3.3.b. Partnerships with Government Agencies

i. Local/State/Tribal Environmental Authority - NCHD is the county department responsible for the protection of public health and has extensive experience in the environmental health field. The NCHD provides information on known health risks, sensitive populations, and situations of identified immediate risks to human health. The environmental firms selected for ESAs and the SI work with the NCHD to gather site information. NCHD assists in reviewing brownfield related health impacts and answers questions raised on health issues. NCDED has a solid working relationship with the NCHD and the NCHD serves as the QEP for the County's BCRLF.

NYSDEC is the state agency managing contamination and enforcing environmental regulations. NYSDEC's environmental cleanup programs are transforming brownfield sites, paving the way for restored ecological habitat, waterfront development, clean energy, new jobs, and recreational opportunities. NYSDEC manages the voluntary BCP program, Petroleum Spill program, and

State Superfund. A NYSDEC representative is a member of the BOA Committees. NYSDEC provides technical expertise to Niagara County and is consulted on each site selected for assessment/investigation and is offered the opportunity to review site specific draft reports.

ii. Other Governmental Partnerships - As a partner in a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, Niagara County is working closely with a cross sectional partnership of public, private, and nonprofit organizations to determine how best to target housing, economic and workforce development, and infrastructure investments to create more jobs, create regional economic activity, and prepare for climate change. The strong working relationship with HUD, DOT, and EPA ensures brownfield sites are reused in accordance with the six livability principles.

Staff in EPA Region 2's office has substantial involvement in the assessment program. A Property Profile Form is submitted to EPA to verify site eligibility. EPA reviews and approves all QAPPs and draft assessment/investigation reports prepared under the cooperative agreement. Collaboration with EPA throughout the grant period has been essential for past program success.

Niagara County, NYS Department of State, NYSDOH, and NYSDEC participate in the BOA planning efforts in the targeted areas. The BOAs provide the area wide planning framework needed to ensure that the sites being selected for remediation and redevelopment are in line with the community's vision.

Niagara County is a partner in the WNY Regional Sustainability Plan that considers the impacts of climate change and ways for the region to become more resilient. Actions in the plan include reusing exiting infrastructure, addressing stormwater runoff through use of green infrastructure, preserving agriculture, redeveloping brownfield sites, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These efforts align with Regional Priority #2, Climate Change Resiliency.

IV.C.3.3.c. Partnerships with Community Organizations

i. Community Organization Description and Role - Table 6 showcases the seven primary community based organizations committed to this project.

Table 6. Community Organizations Committed to the Project

Name of CBO	Mission	Specific Project Role	Contact
Greater Lockport Development Corporation	Encourage economic development in the City of Lockport	Member of BWT; identify sites for assessments; disseminate information; market sites for redevelopment	Brian Smith, President (716) 439-6687
ReNU Niagara Niagara University	Improve the quality of life for Niagara Falls residents	Assist with addressing health and environmental justice concerns; community liaison; work with residents to find the best uses for reclaimed sites.	Tom Lowe, Director (716) 205-0289

Name of CBO	Mission	Specific Project Role	Contact
Highland Community Revitalization Committee Inc.	Advocate for needs of residents in the Highland Community	Identify sites for assessments; community liaison; suggest site reuses	Renee Matthews, Executive Director (716) 282-2325
Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas	Promote business and economic development	Provide guidance from a business perspective; disseminate information to the business community	Angela R. Johnson-Renda, Director (716) 692-5120
Lumber City Development Corporation	Encourage development in the City of North Tonawanda	Member of BWT; identify sites for assessments; disseminate information; market sites for redevelopment	Michael Zimmerman, Director (716) 695-8580
Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper	Protect and restore the quality/quantity of our water while connecting people to the water.	Provide information to the community to support efforts to identify, assess and remediate known and suspected brownfield sites that may contribute to contamination of the Niagara River and its tributaries.	Jill Jedlicka, Executive Director (716) 852-7483
Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce	Promote business and economic development	Identify sites for assessments; disseminate information to business community	Deanna Brennen, President/CEO (716) 285-9141

ii. Letters of Commitment - Letters from the seven CBOs are included as an attachment.

IV.C.3.3.d. Partnerships with Workforce Development Programs

Niagara's WorkSourceOne is the largest employment and training initiative in the County and offers services to both local businesses and job seekers. Local residents can receive specialized environmental remediation training and job placement assistance. In order to receive tax benefit assistance from Niagara County, recipients must commit to using 90% local labor.

The Highland Community Revitalization Committee, Inc. offers a free 400 hour job training program in the construction trade to area residents. The program is located in one of our targeted areas and includes classroom instruction and hands-on job training rehabbing vacant/abandoned homes. Upon completion of the course, assistance is provided with job placement.

IV.C.3.4. Project Benefits

IV.C.3.4.a. Welfare, Environmental, and Public Health Benefits

The negative psychological effects of brownfields can lead to disinvestment and blight radiating outward far beyond the impacted sites or immediate area. The County's vision is that out of brownfields will emerge a better quality of life for residents, greater economic opportunities for businesses and a more positive image for the community. As suggested in the BOA plans, public investment in housing renewal will improve vacancy rates, decrease blight, encourage homeowners and landlords to reinvest in their properties, stabilize neighborhood conditions and reduce lead exposure as older homes are renovated. Within the Niagara Falls targeted area, some

of the minimally contaminated brownfield sites will be targeted for in-fill subsidized housing. In Lockport and North Tonawanda, affordable housing will be pursued. Each of the three cities manages a housing rehabilitation program to encourage landlords to improve their rental units. The removal of lead based paint and asbestos will help increase median house values, lower child blood lead levels, and eliminate asbestos exposure.

Commercial and industrial uses and residential neighborhoods were co-located with little to no buffer zones; remediating and redeveloping the vacant sites in a sustainable manner will provide a better buffer zone for the neighborhoods and improve quality of life for residents. As community reinvestment is undertaken, abandoned buildings are reused, and pride is restored in the communities, a reduction of crime is also expected. Crime reduction will put less strain on police resources and allow them to focus on other issues in the community. When buildings are either demolished or secured, the temptation by children to enter unsafe structures is eliminated.

In the targeted areas, lower income residents have limited access to fresh food. As part of the redevelopment plans, food stores and community gardens are being proposed. Some of the assessed brownfield sites can be used for this purpose and raised garden beds could be utilized. Access to fresh foods is expected to improve health conditions.

It is expected that as petroleum contaminants are addressed there will be an improvement in the air, surface water, groundwater, and soil quality and elimination of health threats from direct contact, inhalation and indoor vapor intrusion of site contaminants. Children will be able to play in their backyards without being exposed to contaminants. By eliminating soil vapor intrusion, indoor air will be cleaner which is expected to reduce rates of asthma and COPD.

Access to surface water was attractive to MGPs for waste disposal. Site contaminants were free to flow into the Niagara River, our drinking water source. Through remediation of these sites, valuable waterfront property can be sustainably reused and the drinking water supply protected. Improvements in water quality will help ease fish consumption restrictions, increase public bathing and recreational opportunities, and provide areas for habitat improvement.

IV.C.3.4.b. Economic and Community Benefits

Brownfields redevelopment will lead to job creation, increased property values for the site and surrounding properties, and an expanded tax base. Based on the past redevelopment of brownfields in the area, the County estimates that each brownfield site has the potential to generate over \$1 million in private investment, create 50 new jobs, and create or preserve 1-2 acres of greenspace. Based on an analysis by the Buffalo-Niagara Partnership, for every \$1 of NYS brownfields tax credits issued, \$10 of private investment occurred. Thirteen projects in Niagara County have completed the BCP resulting in an investment of \$590 million and creation of 969 new jobs.

The sites that will be assessed under this grant have been identified as critical initiatives that upon completion have the potential to initiate investment and activity in surrounding neighborhoods. Community supported conceptual reuses have already been developed for these sites. A large tract of vacant land in the Highland Community is targeted for a green manufacturing industrial park that will bring higher paying jobs to a community that is

experiencing a 64.8% poverty rate. Rebuilding the manufacturing sector in a new sustainable fashion will provide new tax dollars and have a positive economic impact on the targeted areas. Within the BOA plans several reuses are proposed including light industrial, advanced manufacturing, business parks, research and development facilities, and office buildings. These job-creating industries will create new employment opportunities within the targeted areas and help increase the median household income, lower unemployment, and lower poverty rates.

Niagara County anticipates an increase in property taxes as a result of this assessment grant. Currently 115 brownfield sites are tax delinquent with \$6.46 million in back taxes. Some smaller brownfield sites are located in the middle of neighborhoods; these parcels may be suitable for playgrounds/small pocket parks. This will help address the recreational needs of area children, diverting them from vacant/abandoned buildings that currently pose a health and safety threat. Some brownfield sites will also be used for community centers and spaces for charitable organizations enhancing the quality of life for area residents.

IV.C.3.5 Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

IV.C.3.5.a. Audit Findings

No adverse findings have resulted from any audits conducted by federal, state, or local governments or under audits conducted by the U.S. General Accounting Office. Niagara County has never been required to comply with any special high-risk terms and conditions in accordance with OMB Circular A-102.

IV.C.3.5.b. Programmatic Capability

Niagara County has been an EPA brownfield grant recipient since 1998 and has received several brownfield assessment and BCRLF grants. The Project Manager, Amy Fisk, Senior Planner with NCDED, is a Certified Planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners and holds a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and a Bachelors Degree in Geology. Ms. Fisk has 14 years experience working on brownfield and planning issues and serves as the President of the Niagara County Brownfield Development Corporation. Samuel Ferraro, NCDED Commissioner has 37 years experience in planning and economic development. Mr. Ferraro has a Bachelor's Degree in Planning and provides oversight of all county planning, economic development, and brownfields initiatives. NCDED can also utilize other County departments and staff as necessary to implement brownfield activities.

To acquire environmental firms, the County uses a competitive bidding process, conforming to its procurement policies and 40 CFR Part 31. As discussed in *Section IV.C.3.2.a.ii.a.*, proposals will be ranked and reviewed by the BWT. QEPs that submit the lowest bona fide bids and are considered to be fully responsible and qualified to perform the work will be selected. The Niagara County Attorney's Office provides legal assistance for obtaining site access agreements.

IV.C.3.5.c. Measuring Environmental Results: Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes

Utilizing grant funding it is expected that six (6) Phase I ESAs, two (2) Phase II ESAs, one (1) SI, and three (3) QAPPs will be completed. Grant implementation will result in the assessment of six properties and least ten (10) acres of land. Results of site work will be incorporated into the BOA reuse plans and allow strategic sites to be redeveloped. Tax revenues will be increased through the return of tax delinquent sites to the tax rolls and additional funding will be leveraged for remediation and redevelopment. This project will minimize exposure to contamination and

increase health in the targeted areas. NCDED uses ACRES to track brownfield accomplishments.

IV.C.3.5.d. Past Performance and Accomplishments

i. Currently or Has Ever Received an EPA Brownfields Grant

1. Accomplishments - The County has effectively used EPA brownfield grants to inventory, assess, and remediate brownfield sites. Since inception of the County's Program in 1999, Phase I ESAs were done at 129 parcels, Phase II ESAs at 42 parcels, and 10 remediation projects were funded. Some examples of the program's success as reflected in ACRES include:

- EPA funded Phase I ESA resulted in a \$30 million private investment for remediation and redevelopment of a vacant manufacturing facility into a mixed use development.
- Site Assessments completed under the 2006 Petroleum Assessment grant resulted in two cleanup projects, \$189,968 in leveraged cleanup funding, 9.98 acres of land ready for reuse and one site redeveloped as a neighborhood pharmacy.
- ARRA RLF grant funding helped remediated four sites; leveraged an additional \$550,000 in cleanup funding, created 10 cleanup jobs, and made 14.5 acres of land ready for reuse. Redevelopment plans are underway for all of the remediated sites.
- RLF grant funding leveraged \$3.9 million in additional cleanup funds, created 27 cleanup jobs, and made 22 acres ready for reuse. Active redevelopment projects include a \$15 million green industrial park, \$6 million theater expansion, and \$16 million, 100 unit housing complex.

2. Compliance with Grant Requirements - As the lead agency for EPA brownfield assessment grants, EPA-designated Niagara Region Brownfields Showcase Community, and BCRLF grants, NCDED is familiar with EPA rules and procedures. This project will utilize the existing grant infrastructure that already conforms to EPA policies.

Table 7. Recent EPA grants.

Grant Type	Funding Type	Time Frame	Funding	Status	Uncommitted
Assessment	Hazardous Substance	2015-Present	\$200,000	Open	\$0
Assessment	Petroleum	2015-Present	\$200,000	Open	\$105,579
BCRLF	Hazardous Substance	2016-Present	\$500,000	Open	\$500,000
Assessment	Petroleum	2011-2016	\$200,000	Closed	\$0
Assessment	Hazardous Substance	2011-2014	\$200,000	Closed	\$0

As evidenced by the successful implementation of existing brownfields grants, Niagara County has the capacity to ensure timely and successful completion of this grant. The County is in compliance with all grant requirements including submission of quarterly reports, financial status reports, and updates in the ACRES system. Niagara County continues to meet established grant milestones and is on track to achieve the expected results within the identified grant time frames. For closed out grants, acceptable final technical reports were submitted and approved by EPA.

Appendix 3 - Regional Priorities Form/Other Factors Checklist

Name of Applicant: _____ Niagara County, New York _____

Regional Priorities Other Factor

If your proposed Brownfields Assessment project will advance the regional priority(ies) identified in Section I.F., please indicate the regional priority(ies) and the page number(s) for where the information can be found within your 15-page narrative. Only address the priority(ies) for the region in which your project is located. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal, it will not be considered during the selection process.

Regional Priority Title(s):

Assistance to Communities That Have Limited In-House Capacity to Manage Brownfields Projects__

Climate Change Resiliency_____

Page Number(s): ____5, 11_____

Assessment Other Factors Checklist

Please identify (with an **x**) which, if any, of the below items apply to your community or your project as described in your proposal. To be considered for an Other Factor, you must include the page number where each applicable factor is discussed in your proposal. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal or in any other attachments, it will not be considered during the selection process.

Other Factor	Page #
<i>None of the Other Factors are applicable.</i>	
Community population is 10,000 or less.	
Applicant is, or will assist, a federally recognized Indian tribe or United States territory.	
Target brownfield sites are impacted by mine-scarred land.	
Project is primarily focusing on Phase II assessments.	8
Applicant demonstrates firm leveraging commitments for facilitating brownfield project completion by identifying amounts and contributors of funding in the proposal and have included documentation.	
Recent (2008 or later) significant economic disruption has occurred within community, resulting in a significant percentage loss of community jobs and tax base.	
Applicant is one of the 24 recipients, or a core partner/implementation strategy party, of a “manufacturing community” designation provided by the Economic	

Development Administration (EDA) under the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP). To be considered, applicants must clearly demonstrate in the proposal the nexus between their IMCP designation and the Brownfield activities. Additionally, applicants must attach documentation which demonstrate either designation as one of the 24 recipients, or relevant pages from a recipient's IMCP proposal which lists/describes the core partners and implementation strategy parties.	
Applicant is a recipient or a core partner of HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) grant funding or technical assistance that is directly tied to the proposed Brownfields project, and can demonstrate that funding from a PSC grant/technical assistance has or will benefit the project area. Examples of PSC grant or technical assistance include a HUD Regional Planning or Challenge grant, DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), or EPA Smart Growth Implementation or Building Blocks Assistance, etc. To be considered, applicant must attach documentation.	6, 9, 11
Applicant is a recipient of an EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant.	

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Environmental Remediation, Bureau of Program Management
625 Broadway, 12th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-7012
P: (518) 402-9764 | F: (518) 402-9722
www.dec.ny.gov

NOV 18 2016

Mr. Samuel M. Ferraro, Commissioner
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
Vantage Centre – Suite One
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, NY 14132

Dear Mr. Ferraro:

This is to acknowledge that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) received your request dated November 17, 2016, for a state acknowledgement letter for United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Brownfield grants.

I understand that the County is submitting two Brownfield Assessment Grant proposals; one for \$200,000 to conduct hazardous substances community-wide assessments, and one for \$100,000 for petroleum community-wide assessments.

The Department encourages initiatives to redevelop brownfields with the goal of mitigating any environmental and health impacts that they might pose.

Sincerely,


Laura Zeppetelli
Director
Bureau of Program Management

ec: T. Wesley, USEPA Region 2
M. Cruden/C. Staniszewski/M. McIntosh, NYSDEC



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

BUFFALO NIAGARA RIVERKEEPER®

December 9, 2016

Mr. Samuel M. Ferraro, Commissioner
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
Vantage Center, Suite One
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, NY 14132

Re: USEPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Applications

Dear Commissioner Ferraro:

On behalf of Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper I would like to offer this letter of support for your grant applications to the USEPA for Phase I and II site assessments within Niagara County.

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization who has been dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Niagara River Watershed for over 25 years. Our mission is to protect and restore the quality and quantity of our water while connecting people to the water. We do this by cleaning up pollution from our waterways, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, and enhancing public access through greenways that expand parks and open space.

As you know, Riverkeeper strongly supports efforts to identify, assess and remediate known and suspected brownfield sites that may contribute to the ongoing contamination of the Niagara River and its tributaries. Furthermore, Niagara County's proposed assessment work will help us understand the problems and challenges in the watershed and allow us to make more informed decisions on the steps necessary to secure the future environmental and economic health of Niagara County.

We look forward to our continued work together and fully support your ongoing efforts. If you have any questions or require additional information please contact me at (716) 852-7483 or Jedlicka@bnriverkeeper.org

Sincerely,



Jill Jedlicka
Executive Director



December 9, 2016

Samuel M. Ferraro, Commissioner
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
Vantage Center, Suite One
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, New York 14132

Re: Brownfield Assessment Grant Applications Support Letter

Dear Commissioner Ferraro:

As you may be aware, ReNU Niagara was originally established in 2006 with government support and NU investment, and has worked in partnership with non-profits and other community-based organizations to build residents' and organizational capacity in the City of Niagara Falls and surrounding areas. ReNU Niagara engages, empowers and educates diverse community stakeholders to mobilize their collective capacity and resources to improve Niagara Falls and the surrounding areas based on a collaborative vision consistent with the mission and core values of Niagara University.

In June 2009, ReNU Niagara successfully completed a three-year HUD funded COPC or Community Outreach Partnership Center initiative and, in August 2009, relocated from the North End of Main Street to the heart of a distressed neighborhood in Niagara Falls. ReNU Niagara has refined its mission to better assist neighborhoods in the City of Niagara Falls, and the county's other urbanized areas.

ReNU Niagara Supportst Niagara County's grant applications to the USEPA Brownfields Assessment Program. By understanding the environmental issues at sites within our community, we can work with residents to find the best uses for reclaimed sites.

Best of luck in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Tom Lowe, Director
ReNU Niagara



December 9, 2016

Samuel M. Ferraro, Commissioner
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
Vantage Centre – Suite One
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, New York 14132

RE: BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS SUPPORT LETTER

Dear Commissioner Ferraro:

The Niagara USA Chamber enthusiastically supports Niagara County Department of Economic Development's brownfield grant applications being submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for hazardous substances and petroleum sites for assessment in Niagara County.

We are membership organization that provides a strong source of services, support and networking for business and industry in Niagara County, primarily in the City of Niagara Falls. We create a positive environment for continuous improvement of our business climate through our proactive involvement with government, community and education leaders. We vigorously promote business and economic development to enhance the quality of life in our community.

The Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce can provide input on which sites should be assessed from an economic development perspective and disseminate site information to our membership. The environmental knowledge that will come from the site assessments can be used by our members to make more educated decisions on reinvestment and redevelopment options for priority sites within Niagara County.

I look forward to working with Niagara County to address brownfield issues. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (716) 285-9141.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deanna Alterio Brennen
President/CEO
Niagara USA Chamber

LUMBER CITY

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Your Partner in Success

December 9, 2016

Samuel M. Ferraro, Commissioner
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
Vantage Center, Suite One
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, NY 14132

RE: USEPA Brownfields Grant Applications Support

Dear Commissioner Ferraro:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for Niagara County's grant applications to the USEPA Brownfields Assessment program for hazardous substances and petroleum site assessments.

The Lumber City Development Corporation (LCDC) is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to encourage economic development within the City of North Tonawanda. For over ten years we have worked closely with Niagara County on the assessment, remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites throughout the City. As you recall through Niagara County's brownfields assessment program a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was conducted at the Remington Rand site in the City. The LCDC actively marketed the brownfield site and a private developer purchased the property and enrolled in the New York State Brownfields Cleanup Program. A \$30 million investment has turned the once former manufacturing site into the Remington Lofts, a thriving work-live apartment complex with 81 luxury units, an upscale steak and seafood restaurant, a yoga studio and hairstylist school.

The USEPA and NYS funded Niagara Strategic Brownfields Waterfront Plan completed by Niagara County was used as the foundation for our Brownfields Opportunity Area (BOA) grant application and further characterizes the extent the City has been able to build upon the County's brownfield efforts. With the assistance of grant funding from the Niagara County brownfields program to conduct site assessments, the visions outlined in our implementation plan will become a reality.

LCDC looks forward to continuing our excellent brownfields relationship with Niagara County by helping implement the proposed USEPA brownfields assessment grant. Specifically, the LCDC will help Niagara County select priority sites within the City to be targeted for assessment and will help relay the findings of the assessments back to the North Tonawanda community.

If you have any questions in this regard, please feel free to contact me at (716) 695-8580.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Michael Zimmerman
Executive Director



2616 Highland Avenue–Suite 101

Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Phone: (716) 282-2325

Fax: (716) 524-2672

Highland Community Revitalization Committee, Inc. (HCRC)

See us on Facebook

December 9, 2016

Samuel M. Ferraro, Commissioner
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
Vantage Center, Suite One
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, New York 14132

Dear Commissioner Ferraro:

Highland Community Revitalization Committee, Inc. (HCRC) is a grassroots organization that works with members of the community and in partnership with civic, business and other sources to rebuild and restore the Highland area. One of our objectives is to advocate the needs of area residents to city and local agencies to attract needed help and resources to rebuild and restore the Highland area. We advocate the needs of area residents to city and local agencies to attract needed help and resources, and promote pride in the Highland area by seeking ways to bring the community together with the purpose and goal of advancement for all. The community in which we service is located in the County of Niagara, City of Niagara Falls, with almost forty percent of the acreage having been determined to be brownfields. Many of these former industrial sites are immediately adjacent to the residential community and it is of major importance to address the environmental hazards posed to surrounding communities.

The City of Niagara Falls and HCRC received a significant New York State Brownfields Opportunity Area (BOA) grant to conduct an in-depth analysis of existing conditions, opportunities, and reuse potential of properties located within the Highland Area. The goal of the BOA program is to develop community wide planning and implementation strategies for redeveloping brownfields through a community-driven process. The final master plan completed in the fall of 2010 identified 76 sites consisting of multiple parcels that are still in need of site assessment.

With the Highland community having numerous brownfields within its community, partnerships with area municipalities are of utmost importance to not only address environmental issues, but also in the planning of the redevelopment of these sites. Adequate funding to assess these sites is a major component in implementing the plan for the future reuse of these areas.

To this end, HCRC supports Niagara County's grant applications to the USEPA Brownfields Assessment program. HCRC will assist by suggesting priority sites in the community that are in need of assessment and will provide residents with information gleaned from the assessments. By understanding the environmental issues at sites within our community we can work with residents to find the best site reuses.

If you should have any questions in this regard, please feel free to contact my office at (716) 282-2325.

Sincerely,
Renee Mathews, Executive Director
Highland Community Revitalization Committee, Inc



December 9, 2016

Samuel M. Ferraro, Commissioner
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
Vantage Center, Suite One
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, NY 14132

RE: USEPA Brownfields Grant Application Support Letter

Dear Mr. Ferraro,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for Niagara County's grant applications to the USEPA Brownfields Assessment program. The Greater Lockport Development Corporation (GLDC) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to encourage economic development within the City of Lockport.

The GLDC is very familiar with brownfield issues and is an active participant in the New York State Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) grant awarded to the City of Lockport. The BOA grant is providing the City of Lockport with an opportunity to develop a master plan for revitalizing our brownfield sites and vacant and underutilized properties. Through the BOA, our community is developing a vision for brownfield redevelopment and formulating implementation strategies for achieving that vision. In the BOA Tourism Focus Area Draft Nomination Study issued in July 2013, 52 brownfield sites were identified in our downtown study area.

An important part of our BOA implementation we need to conduct site assessments on key brownfield sites to ascertain the extent to which the properties are contaminated. The Niagara County USEPA assessment grants can help us achieve this objective by providing the necessary funding for these site assessments. Results of the site assessments will help provide critical information on which sites have the highest and best reuse potential.

The GLDC has intimate knowledge of the needs in the City of Lockport and will help Niagara County identify strategic sites that should receive site assessments as part of the USEPA assessment grant program and will help disseminate relevant information from the site assessments to our constituents. After site assessments are completed, the GLDC will be able to use the information collected to help market the sites for redevelopment or for sites where additional assessment is necessary, other funding sources can be explored for conducting the required assessments.

I look forward to continue working with Niagara County to address brownfield issues in the City of Lockport. If you have any questions in this regard, please feel free to contact me at (716) 439-6687.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Smith', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Brian Smith, President
Greater Lockport Development Corporation



December 9, 2016

Your Bridge to Success.

Samuel M. Ferraro, Commissioner
Niagara County Department of Economic Development
Vantage Centre – Suite One
6311 Inducon Corporate Drive
Sanborn, New York 14132

RE: BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION SUPPORT LETTER

Dear Mr. Ferraro:

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my support for Niagara County Department of Economic Development's brownfield grant applications being submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas is a membership organization that provides a strong source of services, support and networking for business and industry in the Tonawandas. We create a positive environment for continuous improvement of our business climate through our proactive involvement with government, community and education leaders. We vigorously promote business and economic development to enhance the quality of life in our community.

As a member of the North Tonawanda Brownfield Opportunity Area Steering Committee, I understand the importance of brownfield sites to the overall revitalization of the City of North Tonawanda. In this capacity I will provide input on which sites should be assessed from an economic development perspective and disseminate site information to our membership. The environmental knowledge that will come from the site assessments can be used by our members to make more educated decisions on reinvestment and redevelopment options for priority sites within the City.

I look forward to working with Niagara County to address brownfield issues in the City of North Tonawanda. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (716) 692-5120.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angela R. Johnson-Renda
Executive Director

Niagara County, NY FY17 Petroleum Assessment Grant Threshold Criteria

III.B.1 Applicant Eligibility

Niagara County, NY is considered a unit of local government and is therefore eligible to apply for a community-wide brownfield assessment grant.

III.B.2 Community Involvement

In each of the targeted areas, community involvement plans were created outlining a comprehensive community outreach strategy. The objectives of the plans are: share information with the public; offer opportunities for the public to voice issues and concerns; and provide opportunities for public input in the planning process and proposed brownfield revitalization. The plans outline strategies for incorporating local community members, project partners, and stakeholders into the planning process to ensure that citizens have the opportunity to shape the future of their community and provide input on redevelopment of brownfield sites. Regular public meetings are held within the community and informational booths are held at local festivals and community events. Public involvement opportunities are advertised through project websites, newspapers, community centers, libraries, churches, local businesses, and door-to-door flyers.



Making Sustainability Work in Buffalo Niagara Sustainable Communities Grant Consortium

CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Consortium Agreement is to demonstrate a shared framework of understanding of the members within the Buffalo Niagara Consortium that will be working in cooperation to complete a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RSPD) for Erie and Niagara Counties. This framework will support the members and guide the implementation of the initiative. The Consortium Agreement is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which is the primary funding source for this project. The Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) will act as the lead agency to implement the Making Sustainability Work in Buffalo Niagara program and will work in partnership with its fiscal agent, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) to administer Cooperative Agreement #NYRIP0067-11 (Attachment A), entered into with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and effective February 15, 2012.

By signing this agreement, these signatories agree that:

- (1) They assent to goals, structures, operational protocols, and other aspects of the initiative, as described below,
- (2) They commit to fulfill the responsibilities agreed to by their organization as outlined in their Letter of Commitment (Attachment B), participate in the initiative and hold other consortium members accountable for their responsibilities, and
- (3) They will identify and implement opportunities to align their organizations with the principles and approach described in this Agreement.

II. Signatories

The signatories to this document include the organizations, agencies and governments that are (1) Buffalo-Niagara Consortium's lead agency and fiscal agent (2) voting members of the Steering Committee (3) sub-recipients of the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant:

- The Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, Lead Agency and Steering Committee Member
- Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Fiscal Agent and Steering Committee Member
- University at Buffalo Regional Institute, Steering Committee Member and Sustainable Communities Sub-Grantee
- Erie County, Steering Committee Member
- Niagara County, Steering Committee Member
- City of Buffalo, NY, Steering Committee Member
- City of Niagara Falls, NY, Steering Committee Member
- Empire State Development, Steering Committee Member
- Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Steering Committee Member and Sustainable Communities Sub-Grantee
- Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Steering Committee Member
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Buffalo, Steering Committee Member
- Belmont Housing Resources of Western New York, Inc., Steering Committee Member

III. Background

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program is part of an effort by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to help improve access to affordable housing, provide more transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide. A set of guiding livability principles and a federal interagency partnership agreement is intended to guide their efforts in coordinating federal housing, transportation, and other infrastructure investments designed to protect the environment, promote equitable development, and help to address the challenges of climate change.

“Making Sustainability Work in Buffalo Niagara” is an initiative to promote sustainable, vibrant, and healthy communities in the region. The Buffalo Niagara Consortium members, community organizations, and leaders will be engaged in these efforts from early 2012 through 2015.

A. Goals and Principles

Consistent with and in addition to Federal policy, statutes, executive orders and supplemental agency policies and guidance, the members of the Buffalo Niagara Consortium collaboratively seek to follow the common set of the six Livability Principles below:

1. Provide more transportation choices
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing
3. Enhance economic competitiveness
4. Support existing communities
5. Coordinated and leverage federal policies and investment
6. Value communities and neighborhoods

The following are the goals that are anticipated throughout the planning process:

- Development of a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) that includes a Regional Housing Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Food Access Plan
- Creation of a Citizen Planning School to build capacity on sustainability issues and public facilitation techniques
- Region-wide outreach with a focus to include historically –underrepresented communities in sustainability planning and implementation process
- Expansion of the Erie Niagara Regional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with platforms to incorporate a range of performance metrics and shared data capacity across agencies
- Development of a guidebook of scenario-modeling for various prototypes of development
- Creation of project-specific implementation strategies, to align ongoing catalytic projects with the emerging RPSD and the six Livability Principles
- Formation of project-specific “implementation councils” to advance strategies for key catalytic project(s)
- Execution of project-specific scenario modeling that will illustrate value of planning for sustainability

B. Regional Plan for Sustainable Development

HUD provided the Buffalo- Niagara Region with a "Category 1" grant to be used for, "the preparation of a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) that addresses housing, economic development, transportation, education, workforce development, energy, water, and environmental quality in an integrated fashion where such plans do not currently exist or where they exist but need to be significantly revised or enhanced. The RSPD will build off of the Erie-Niagara Framework for Regional Growth (2006) which provides a baseline analysis of growth conditions and patterns, identifies development areas, and recommends policies for a more livable, sustainable region.

IV. Organizational Structure, Roles, Responsibilities and Benefits

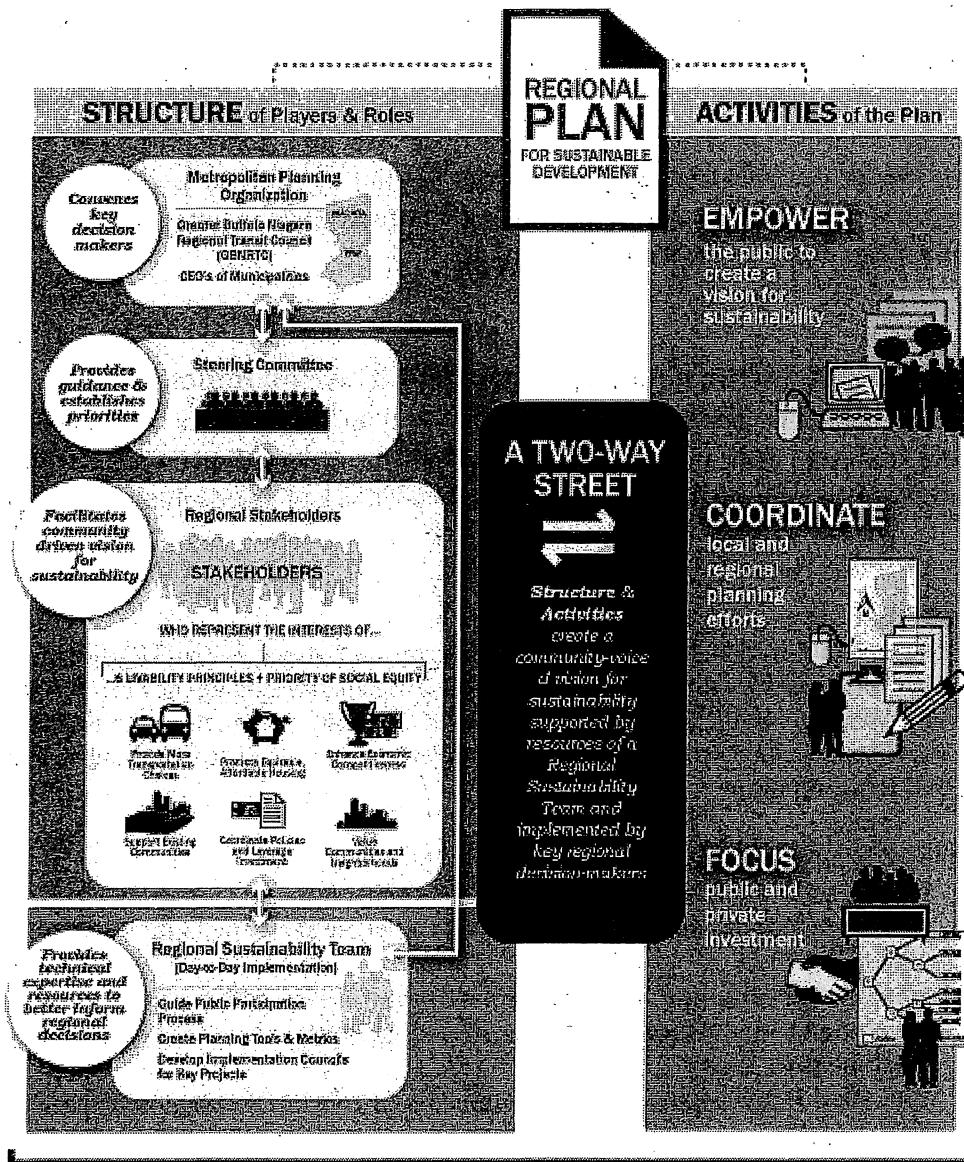
To achieve the maximum impact of this initiative, the consortium has created a collaborative network as describe in the organizational chart on the page 4. Like the project work plans, the organizational structure of the consortium is subject to change, based on feedback of its members and the results of their work.

A. Lead Agency

The Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Erie and Niagara Counties is the lead agency for the *Making Sustainability Work in Buffalo Niagara* program. GBNRTC will ensure that the Consortium's work as described in the approved work plan (Attachment C) is carried out in compliance with all HUD requirements.

As the lead agency, the GBNRTC and its staff will:

- Manage the Project over its three year duration;
- Act in a representative capacity with HUD on behalf of all members of the Consortium;
- Provide staff support to the Project Team/Steering Committee;
- Coordinate Project meetings as necessary, with assistance from the Regional Sustainability Team;
- Distribute Project materials, with assistance from the Regional Sustainability Team;
- Make day-to-day decisions in executing the decisions of the Steering Committee; and,
- Complete other necessary activities to ensure Project success.



**A More Sustainable
Buffalo Niagara Region**

B. Fiscal Agent

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority will serve as GBNRTC's fiscal agent for the grant.

As the lead fiscal agent, the NFTA and its staff will:

- Assume fiscal responsibility for the grant on behalf of the Consortium in compliance with all HUD and program requirements;
- Act in a representative capacity with HUD on behalf of all members of the Consortium;
- Enter into memorandums of understanding with any participants receiving funding from the grant to ensure, in partnership with the GBNRTC, the delivery of the required services and other deliverables.

C. Consortium Steering Committee

The Consortium Steering Committee is charged with serving as the ultimate decision making body for the *Making Sustainability Work in Buffalo Niagara* program and ensuring the project and processes are carried forward in line with HUD's expectations and providing overall guidance to development of the RPSD. This includes:

1. Ensuring quality implementation of the Buffalo Niagara RSPD priorities, vision and goals as stated in the work plan with a particular focus on active community engagement and outreach.
2. Establishing strategic direction and core principles to assist with the preparation and implementation of action plans to carry out the work.
3. Participating with solution-driven action and incorporating other public, private, non-profit and voluntary leaders into the conversation.
4. Bringing together the resources of the organizations represented on the Steering Committee to support the implementation of the Buffalo Niagara RSPD.

Steering Committee members include: the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, University at Buffalo Regional Institute, Erie County, Niagara County, City of Buffalo, NY, City of Niagara Falls, NY, Empire State Development, Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Buffalo and Belmont Housing Resources of Western New York, Inc.

D. Consortium Accountability

Steering Committee members have committed to attend the monthly meetings; carry out the Steering Committee's charge, uphold livability principles, and advance Buffalo Niagara RSPD goals.

Regular attendance at Consortium Steering Committee meetings is essential in order to maintain continuity and cohesion in the management and governance of the program. The Steering Committee makes decisions on a consensus basis and therefore requires a quorum of 2/3 of the Committee membership to conduct business. When votes are needed to clarify a decision, they must pass on a 2/3 majority.

If a member misses more than two consecutive meetings without prior notification, the member is in breach of their obligations and is liable to be removed from the Steering Committee if such a motion is made and approved by a 2/3 majority of the Committee.

E. Consortium Joinability

The Buffalo Niagara Consortium will continue to grow over time. It is expected that there will be interested parties not currently included in the Consortium that will either request inclusion, or that will be identified by the Consortium and asked to participate. An ongoing task will be to reach out to potential new partners and seek their membership and active involvement. Options for inclusion range from accepting written input on specific program elements, being included on a working team, participating in the Local Government Councils and Sustainability Congresses, to being named a member of the Steering Committee.

All new members must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Steering Committee. Criteria for evaluating prospective members of the Consortium include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. The organization plays a leadership role in the region in an issue area closely related to sustainable development.
2. The organization has committed to fully participating in the consortium, as outlined in this agreement.

Every effort shall be made by the Steering Committee to recruit and include eligible groups and interested parties that have not historically been represented in regional planning efforts. Whether they be minority populations, special interest groups, or underrepresented interests, membership in the Consortium is and will remain flexible enough to enable participation and inclusion of traditionally marginalized voices.

F. Regional Stakeholders

As part of the RSPD process, Regional Working Teams will be formed to broaden the Consortium's knowledge base and effectively address livability principles and regional specific needs initially around the areas of Land Use/Economic Development; Transportation/Infrastructure; Climate Change; Housing; and Food Access. Each working team will be chaired by a member of the Consortium Steering Committee and include topic-area experts, "citizen champions," and neighborhood-based stakeholders. This process will ensure that the most effective voices and resources on these issues are deeply woven into the overall process and its implementation mechanisms.

G. Regional Sustainability Team

A Regional Sustainability Team (RST) accountable to the GBNRTC will perform the day-to-day activities of the grant. The RST will consist of technical expertise in planning, law, public participation, communications and public relations and economic development to execute specific planning activities and implementation. The Consortium's university partner (UB Regional Institute and Urban Design Project) will serve as the nucleus of the RST. The Buffalo Niagara Partnership will also serve as part of the RST and will primarily serve as advisors on economic development issues and develop and implement focused implementation strategies for developers and local economic development agents.

H. Benefits

Benefits for participation in the Buffalo Niagara Consortium include the enhanced ability of the region and individual communities to develop and implement the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. By participating in the Consortium, members will be able to influence the development of plans, strategies, and tools and access those tools for their own use. In addition, members may have the potential opportunity to access additional points when being scored by HUD on applications for a broad range of funding opportunities to advance their own prosperity, livability, and sustainability goals as long as they also further the regional priorities.

V. Effective Date

This Consortium Agreement will become effective upon signature by the parties. The provisions of the agreement may be reviewed, as appropriate, and amended or supplemented if mutually agreed upon in writing by the parties. Unless extended by written agreement of the parties or previously terminated by agreement of a majority of the signatories, this agreement will expire at the end of the three-year grant period on February 14, 2015.

VI. Signatures

By my signature below, my organization/agency becomes a signatory to the Making Sustainability Work in Buffalo
Niagara: A Partnership for Sustainable Communities in Erie & Niagara Counties Consortium Agreement.

The Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council

Hal Morse
Name, Title: Hal Morse, Executive Director

ASST
By John Hoff 6.6.12
Date: June 12, 2012

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority

Kimberly A. Minkel
Name, Title: Kimberly A. Minkel, Executive Director

Date: May 21, 2012

Empire State Development

Christina P. Orsi
Name, Title: Christina P. Orsi, Regional Director

Date: May 18, 2012

The County of Erie

Mark C. Poloncarz
Name, Title: Mark C. Poloncarz, County Executive

Date: May 25 2012

The County of Niagara

William L. Ross
Name, Title: William L. Ross, Chairman of Legislature
Approved as to form of the County of Niagara

Date: 15 May 2012

City of Buffalo

Byron W. Brown
Name, Title: Byron W. Brown, Mayor

Date: 6-7-12

City of Niagara Falls

Paul A. Dyster
Name, Title: Paul A. Dyster, Mayor

Date: May 15, 2012

University at Buffalo Regional Institute

Robert G. Shibley
Name, Title: Robert G. Shibley,
Dean, UB School of Architecture & Planning

Date: May 15, 2012

Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Andrew A. Rudnick
Name, Title: Andrew A. Rudnick, President & CEO

Date: May 10, 2012

Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus

Matthew K. Enstice
Name, Title: Matthew K. Enstice, President & CEO

Date: May 15, 2012

Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Buffalo

Michael K. Clarke
Name, Title: Michael K. Clarke, Executive Director

Date: May 16, 2012

Belmont Housing Resources of Western New York, Inc.

Elizabeth Huckabone
Name, Title: Elizabeth Huckabone, Executive Director

Date: May 31, 2012

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission:

- ☒ Preapplication
☐ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

* 2. Type of Application:

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

12/21/2016

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name: County of Niagara, New York

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

16-6002564

* c. Organizational DUNS:

0675238860000

d. Address:

* Street1: Vantage Center, Suite One

Street2: 6311 Inducon Corporate Drive

* City: Sanborn

County/Parish: Niagara

* State: NY: New York

Province:

* Country: USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code: 14132-9016

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Economic Development

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

* First Name:

Amy

Middle Name:

* Last Name: Fisk

Suffix:

Title: Senior Planner

Organizational Affiliation:

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

* Telephone Number: 716-278-8750

Fax Number: 716-278-8757

* Email: amy.fisk@niagaracounty.com

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

B: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.818

CFDA Title:

Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

EPA-OLEM-OBLR-16-08

* Title:

FY17 Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Grants

13. Competition Identification Number:

NONE

Title:

None

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Niagara County Petroleum Assessment Project

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant * b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date: * b. End Date: **18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="100,000.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="100,000.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .
- ☒ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☐ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email: * Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed: